



General Assembly

## ***Substitute Bill No. 4***

*January Session, 2013*



### ***AN ACT CONCERNING EARLY VOTING.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2014*) (a) As used in this  
2       section, "election day" means the day on which a regular election, as  
3       defined in section 9-1 of the general statutes, that is a state election, as  
4       defined in section 9-1 of the general statutes, is held, and "early voting"  
5       means voting in accordance with the provisions of this section.
- 6       (b) Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 146 of the general  
7       statutes, each municipality shall provide an opportunity for electors  
8       residing in such municipality to cast ballots in person starting the  
9       eighth calendar day prior to election day in accordance with the  
10      provisions of this section. Such electors shall be permitted to vote at  
11      the town hall or other municipal office building, as provided in the  
12      warning under section 9-225 of the general statutes, as amended by  
13      this act.
- 14      (c) Election officials shall permit early voting during all hours in  
15      which the town hall or other municipal office building being used for  
16      early voting is open, and such voting shall also be allowed (1) until at  
17      least eight o'clock p.m. on at least one day of such voting, and (2) on at  
18      least one weekend day from nine o'clock a.m. to five o'clock p.m. Any  
19      elector standing in line at the time that early voting closes for the day  
20      shall be permitted to vote and no elector who is not in line at such time

21 shall be permitted to enter such line. Hours designated for voting in  
22 accordance with this subsection shall be specified in the warning  
23 under section 9-225 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

24 (d) Each elector voting under this section shall be provided with the  
25 ballot that he or she would be voting on if such elector were voting on  
26 election day at the polling place assigned to the elector for voting on  
27 election day. The registrars of voters shall ensure that a sufficient  
28 number of ballots is available to accommodate each such elector  
29 residing in any voting district of the municipality.

30 (e) After the elector has voted his or her ballot, the elector shall place  
31 the ballot in a secured ballot depository receptacle. At the time  
32 designated by the registrars of voters and noticed to election officials,  
33 the registrars of voters shall transport such receptacle containing such  
34 ballots to the area, either district or central, where absentee ballots are  
35 counted and such ballots shall be counted by the election officials  
36 present at such location. A section of the head moderator's return shall  
37 show the number of such ballots received from electors. The registrars  
38 of voters shall seal a copy of the vote tally for such ballots in a  
39 depository envelope with such ballots and store such depository  
40 envelope with the other election results materials. The depository  
41 envelope shall be preserved by the registrars of voters for the period of  
42 time required to preserve counted ballots for elections. The provisions  
43 of the general statutes and regulations concerning procedures relating  
44 to the custody, control and counting of absentee ballots shall apply as  
45 nearly as possible, to the custody, control and counting of the ballots  
46 under this section.

47 (f) Election officials for early voting shall be selected in the same  
48 manner as provided under chapter 146 of the general statutes. Before  
49 each period of early voting, the registrars of voters and certified head  
50 moderator shall instruct the election officials in accordance with the  
51 provisions of section 9-249 of the general statutes, as amended by this  
52 act.

53 (g) The process of voting under section 9-261 of the general statutes  
54 shall apply as nearly as possible to the process of early voting  
55 conducted under this section.

56 (h) No person shall solicit on behalf of or in opposition to the  
57 candidacy of another or himself or herself or on behalf of or in  
58 opposition to any question being submitted at the election, or loiter or  
59 peddle or offer any advertising matter, ballot or circular to another  
60 person within a radius of seventy-five feet of any outside entrance in  
61 use as an entry to the town hall or other municipal building used for  
62 early voting during the hours of early voting or in any corridor,  
63 passageway or other approach leading from any such outside entrance  
64 to such location or in any room opening upon any such corridor,  
65 passageway or approach.

66 (i) No ballot cast during the period of early voting pursuant to this  
67 section shall be counted prior to the closing of the polls on election  
68 day.

69 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2014*) The Secretary of the State  
70 and the registrars of voters of each municipality shall ensure that no  
71 elector, as defined in section 9-1 of the general statutes, stands in line  
72 to vote for longer than fifteen minutes for any election, as defined in  
73 section 9-1 of the general statutes, or any primary, as defined in section  
74 9-372 of the general statutes, without having an opportunity to cast his  
75 or her ballot.

76 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 9-225 of the general statutes is  
77 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
78 *January 1, 2014*):

79 (a) The town clerk or assistant town clerk of each town shall warn  
80 the electors therein to meet on the Tuesday following the first Monday  
81 in November in the even-numbered years, at six o'clock a.m., or that  
82 any such elector may participate in early voting in accordance with  
83 section 1 of this act, which warning shall be given by publication in a

84 newspaper having a general circulation in such town, or towns in the  
85 case of a joint publication under subsection (b) of this section, not more  
86 than fifteen nor less than five days previous to [holding] the first day  
87 of early voting for such election. The clerk in each town shall, in the  
88 warning for such election, give notice of the time and the location of  
89 the polling place in the town and the location and hours of early  
90 voting, and in towns divided into voting districts, of the time and the  
91 location of the polling place in each district, at which such election will  
92 be held. The town clerk shall record each such warning.

93 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 9-229 of the general statutes is  
94 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
95 *January 1, 2014*):

96 (a) The registrars of voters in the several towns and, in towns where  
97 there are different registrars for different voting districts, the registrars  
98 of voters in such districts shall appoint the moderators of regular and  
99 special state and municipal elections in their respective towns or  
100 districts. For the purpose of providing a reserve group of persons who  
101 may serve as moderators, the registrars shall designate alternate  
102 moderators from among those persons chosen as official checkers, or  
103 tabulator tenders, in the following minimum numbers: In towns with  
104 one or more but not exceeding three voting districts, one alternate  
105 moderator; in towns with four or more but not exceeding eight voting  
106 districts, two alternate moderators; in towns with more than eight  
107 voting districts, a number of alternate moderators equal to one-fourth  
108 of the number of voting districts rounded off to the nearest multiple of  
109 four. In case the registrars fail to agree in the choice of a moderator or  
110 alternate moderator, the choice shall be determined between such  
111 registrars by lot. In the case of a primary, the registrar, as defined in  
112 section 9-372, shall so appoint such moderators and alternate  
113 moderators. Moderators and alternate moderators shall be appointed  
114 at least twenty days before the election or primary, except that any  
115 moderator and alternate moderator appointed to moderate early  
116 voting in accordance with section 1 of this act shall be appointed at

117 least twenty days before the first day of early voting. The registrars  
118 shall submit a list of the names of such moderators and alternate  
119 moderators to the municipal clerk, which list shall be made available  
120 for public inspection by such clerk. Each person appointed to serve as  
121 moderator or alternate moderator shall be certified by the Secretary of  
122 the State in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of this  
123 section, except as provided in subsection (d) of this section or section 9-  
124 436.

125 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 9-249 of the general statutes is  
126 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
127 *January 1, 2014*):

128 (a) Before each election, the registrars of voters and the certified  
129 head moderator shall instruct the election officials. [Any]  
130 Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or [of] any  
131 special act, [to the contrary notwithstanding,] election officials shall be  
132 appointed at least twenty days before the election, except that any  
133 election official appointed for early voting in accordance with section 1  
134 of this act shall be appointed at least twenty days before the first day of  
135 early voting and except as provided in section 9-229, as amended by  
136 this act. The registrars of voters and the certified head moderator shall  
137 instruct each election official who is to serve in a voting district in  
138 which a voting tabulator is to be used in the use of the tabulator and  
139 the election official's duties in connection therewith, and for the  
140 purpose of giving such instruction, such instructors shall call such  
141 meeting or meetings of the election officials as are necessary. Such  
142 instructors shall, without delay, file a report in the office of the  
143 municipal clerk and with the Secretary of the State, (1) stating that they  
144 have instructed the election officials named in the report and the time  
145 and place where such instruction was given, and (2) containing a  
146 signed statement from each such election official acknowledging that  
147 the official has received such instruction.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2014</i>	9-225(a)
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2014</i>	9-229(a)
Sec. 5	<i>January 1, 2014</i>	9-249(a)

***Statement of Legislative Commissioners:***

Deleted sentence regarding voting tabulator in section 1(g) for consistency.

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*